

OUTGOING MESSAGE

COMINT

Approved For Release 2001/08/31 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100040039-2

CHANNELS

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MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CIA/OEI/WHIZ 740415

CIA/WHIS

SOURCE REF:

1		4		7		10	
2		5		8		11	
3		6		9		12	

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM//PASS TO MR HORAN, NSC.
STATE RCI//OPERATIONS CENTER FOR MR FRY, NMCC//ATTENTION CIA
REF. TREASURY DEPT//INFO MR JOHN YEO.
WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS
INVOLVED

ITEM NO: 4

DATE: 15 APR 74

SUBJECT: NIGER MILITARY SEIZES POWER

REF : HIAHEY 106A, 151055Z APR 74, UNCLAS

NIGER ARMED FORCES COMMANDER KOUNTCHE HAS CITED THE NECESSITY
OF ENDING YEARS OF GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION AND MISMANAGEMENT AS
THE REASON FOR HIS COUP. HE HAS SUSPENDED THE CONSTITUTION,
DISSOLVED THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AND BANNED ALL POLITICAL
ACTIVITY IN THE COUNTRY. FORMER PRESIDENT DIORI--IN POWER SINCE
NIGER GAINED INDEPENDENCE IN 1960--AND HIS TOP OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN
PLACED UNDER ARREST. A NEW GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE HAS YET TO BE
ANNOUNCED.

2 KOUNTCHE'S DECISION TO MOVE AGAINST DIORI WAS PROBABLY A
CULMINATION OF DISSATISFACTION WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S LONGSTANDING

DATE:

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UNIT:

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State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

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INABILITY TO IMPROVE NIGER'S CHRONIC ECONOMIC STAGNATION, NOW COMPOUNDED BY THE SERIOUS DROUGHT THAT HAS SPREAD THROUGHOUT MOST OF THE COUNTRY. KOUNTCHE ALSO MAY HAVE BEEN DISPLEASED WITH THE HEAVY FRENCH INFLUENCE THAT PERVADES THE COUNTRY. FRANCE IS THE PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER OF MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID TO NIGER AND A NUMBER OF FRENCH TECHNICIANS VIRTUALLY CONTROLLED THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT IN THEIR CAPACITY AS ADVISERS TO DIORI AND THE MILITARY.

ALTHOUGH KOUNTCHE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT NIGER WILL HONOR ITS INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS AND AGREEMENTS PROVIDED THEY RESPECT THE INTEREST AND DIGNITY OF THE NIGERIAN PEOPLE. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR HOW HE VIEWS THE MUTUAL DEFENSE PACTS THAT DIORI'S GOVERNMENT SIGNED WITH FRANCE AND LIBYA. E2 IMPDET.H

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(SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: MEA DIV, NIO [REDACTED])

DATE: 15 APR 74
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